

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HAVANA 00652 140117Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13
ACDA-12 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /099 W
-----094977 140124Z /73

O R 132146Z MAR 78
FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1369
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0652

EO 11652: GDS
TABS: PDEV PBOR MILI ET SO CU UR
SUBJ: CUBANS REPORT ON ETHIOPIAN DENIGRATION OF SIAD'S
CEASEFIRE PROPOSAL

1. SUMMARY: HAVANA PRESS REPORTS ETHIOPIAN DENIGRATION OF SIAD'S
CEASEFIRE OFFER AND US FOREIGN OBSERVER SUGGESTION, WHILE
RAUL CASTRO ATTACKS US CRITICISM OF CUBA'S AFRICAN MILITARY
PRESENCE. MOSCOW, IN MEANTIME, CALLS BACK SOVIET AMBASSADOR
FOR CONSULTATIONS. FIDEL CASTRO, IN PRIVATE, REASSURES VISITING
SOVIET -LINE FOREIGN COMMUNIST THAT ETHIOPIANS WILL NOT CROSS
SOMALI FRONTIER. END SUMMARY.

2. GRANMA, MARCH 13, CARRIES CUBAN ORIGIN (PRENSA LATINA)
COMMENTARY FROM ADDIS REPORTING ON ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY
DECLARATION WHICH, IN GRANMA'S WORDS, "REJECTS EFFORTS OF US
AND ITS ALLIES TO INTERFERE IN SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS RELATING
TO ETHIOPIAN SOVEREIGNTY." GRANMA SAYS THAT ETHIOPAINS
WANT SOMALIA TO:

--RENOUNCE, WITHOUT ANY PRE-CONDITONS, CLAIMS TO PARTS
OF TERRITORY OF ETHIOPIA AND KENYA, AS WELL AS DJIBOUTI;
--AGREE TO RESPECT PRINCIPLES AND RESOLUTUIONS OF UN AND OAU.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HAVANA 00652 140117Z

3. ETHIOPIANS, SAYS GRANMA, ATTRIBUTE NO IMPORTANCE TO
SOMALI CALL NOW FOR CEASEFIRE SINCE, UNLIKE BEFORE WHEN
SOMALIS WERE IN DOMINANT POSITON AND NO CEASEFIRE WAS
PROPOSED, MOGADISCIO'S FORCES NOW ARE RETREATING IN DISARRAY.
(COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST CUBAN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT
SOMALIS HAVE CALLED FOR CEASEFIRE.) ETHIOPIANS, GRANMA

ADDS, ALSO "CATEGORICALLY" REJECT US PROPOSAL TO SEND FOREIGN OBSERVERS TO ETHIOPIA. (COMMENT: NO MENTION IS MADE OF PURPOSE OF OBSERVERS.)

4. IN MEANTIME, AND BEFORE ETHIOPIAN-CUBAN REACTION SURFACED, MOSCOW, ON FRIDAY, MARCH 10, (ACCORDING TO SOVIET DIPLOMATS HERE), CALLED BACK SOVIET AMBASSADOR AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER NIKITA TOLUBEYEV TO USSR FOR CONSULTATIONS. SOVIET DIPLOMATS HERE CLAIMED TO USINT OFFICER THAT TOLUBEYEV DID NOT SEE CASTRO BETWEEN TIME SOMALI CEASEFIRE OFFER MADE AND HIS DEPARTURE FOR MOSCOW. (COMMENT: SOVIET DIPLOMATS HERE HAVE GIVEN NO HINT OF REASONS FOR NEED FOR TOLUBEYEV TO RETURN TO MOSCOW. MONGOLIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD USINT OFFICER, HOWEVER, ECHOING LINE THAT WE HAVE HEARD PREVIOUSLY FROM MOSCOW-LINE CUBAN FOREIGN POLICY CZAR CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ, THAT NEXT ITEM THAT REQUIRES DISCUSSION IS POSSIBLE DRAWDOWN OF CUBAN TROOPS IN ETHIOPIA.)

5. ON SATURDAY, MARCH 11, RAUL CASTRO, SPEAKING FROM PREPARED TEXT IN PRESENCE OF HIS BROTHER FIDEL, HARSHLY ATTACKED US INFLUENCE IN PRE-REVOLUTIONARY CUBA AND POINTED TO "OVERBEARING" ACTIONS OF US GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN IN DENYING CUBAN RIGHT TO RESPOND TO CALL OF "SOVEREIGN AND INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENTS LIKE ANGOLA, ETHIOPIA, AND OTHER COUNTRIES," WHILE US MAINTAINS ONE-HALF MILLION TROOPS OVERSEAS IN 445 MILITARY BASES, AMONG THEM GUANTANAMO "OCCUPIED BY US
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HAVANA 00652 140117Z

MARINES AGAINST WILL OF PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF CUBA." (COMMENT: WE READ RAUL'S REMARKS, DELIVERED IN RASPY, HARANGUING TONES, AFTER EXPOSITION ON OMNIPRESENT "YANKEE" CONTROL AND INFLUENCE OVER "HANGMEN" OF PRE-REVOLUTIONARY CUBA, AS DEFIANT REJECTION OF US CRITICISM OF CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN AFRICA. THESE REMARKS, CLEARLY DELIVERED WITH APPROVAL OF FIDEL, HOWEVER, COULD EQUALLY BE INTENDED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT, IF ANY CUBAN MILITARY DRAWDOWN FROM ETHIOPIA DOES EVENTUALLY TAKE PLACE, HAVANA IS NOT ACTING AT BEHEST OF WASHINGTON.)

6. WITH REGARD TO CUBAN-ETHIOPIAN INTENTIONS IN COMING DAYS, ONLY RECENT SIGNALS WE HAVE HEARD WAS FIDEL CASTRO ASSURANCE, IN PRIVATE, TO MOSCOW-LINE MOROCCAN COMMUNIST (PPS) ALY YATA AT END OF LAST WEEK (CONVEYED TO US BY MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR) THAT ETHIOPIANS WOULD STILL NOT CROSS BORDER. (COMMENT: FYI "NO BORDER CROSSING" LINE WAS REPEATED AGAIN TO USINT CHIEF BY ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER TORRAS, MARCH 10. END FYI)

7. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT SOVIETS MUST HAVE ORDERED TOLUBEYEV BACK TO MOSCOW IN WAKE OF SOMALI CEASEFIRE ANNOUNCEMENT AND CONVERSATIONS WITH DOBRYNIN IN WASHINGTON. WE

PRESUME THAT SOVIETS MUST BE THINKING OUT NEXT MOVES IN
CRISIS. IN THIS PLANNING, THEY WILL HAVE TO TAKE INTO
ACCOUNT CASTRO'S EMOTIONAL RESISTENCE TO APPEARING TO ACCEDE
TO US DEMANDS. OUR JUDGEMENT HERE, BASED ON ALBEIT FRAGMENT-
ARY INFORMATION, IS THAT CUBANS WISH TO SECURE EITHER PUBLIC
SIAD OBEISANCE ALONG LINES OF PARA 2 OR TO MAINTAIN POLITICAL-
MILITARY PRESSURE ON HIM LOOKING TOWARD HIS OVERTHROW. WHILE
WE VIEW "NO BORDER CROSSING" ASSURANCES FROM CUBA AS BINDING
FOR THE MOMENT, WE NOTICE THAT CUBAN ARMED FORCES RADIO,
MARCH 10, DESCRIBED HARGEISA AS HEADQUARTERS OF "REAR GUARD"
OF SOMALI FORCES THREATENING ETHIOPIA. PRESUMABLY, IF SIAD
IS NOT RESPONSIVE TO ETHIOPIAN-CUBAN PROMPTINGS, CUBANS AND
ETHIOPIANS MAY FLOAT POSSIBILITY, AT LEAST FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL
PURPOSES, OF SOME TYPE OF "DEFENSIVE" ACTION AGAINST HARGEISA.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 HAVANA 00652 140117Z

LANE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DEFAMATION, ARMISTICE, TROOP DEPLOYMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HAVANA00652
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780112-0254
Format: TEL
From: HAVANA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780377/aaaacmsf.tel
Line Count: 137
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a95374c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3355272
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CUBANS REPORT ON ETHIOPIAN DENIGRATION OF SIAD'S CEASEFIRE PROPOSAL
TAGS: SOPN, PDEV, PBOR, MILI, MOPS, ET, SO, UR, CU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a95374c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014